(c) and (d) In order to educate the masses about the facts of the T.B. the different channel of media communications such as Doordarshan, All India Radio, D.A.V.P. have been tapped.

(e) and (f) World Health Organisation provides technical support to the Natonal T.B. Control Programme. The Revised National T.B. Control Programme was evolved with technical assistance of World Health Organisation.

Out-break of Gastro-Enteritis in Assam

4186. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that Gastro-enteritis broke out in tea-gardens of upper Assam in an epidemic form and took tolls of several lives;

(b) if so, the help offered to the State Health Department by the Ministry;

(c) whether the tea-companies of Assam will be directed to have good medical facilities including doctors, nurses, and medicines for eradicating health-hazards of tea workers; and

(d) whether a comprehensive legislature would be brought for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One officer was deputed from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi during 30.6.98 to 7.7.98 to assist the State Health authorities in epidemiological investigations and also to suggest preventive and control measures.

(c) and (d) Since Health is a State subject, it is for the State Government to take necessary action in this matter;

Steps to curb production and sale of Synthetic Milk

4187. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report appearing in the Pioneer, dated the 5th May, 1998 under the caption "Piyo glassful, but don't get fooled";

(b) if so, the steps taken to curb the production and sale of "synthetic milk" in the northern States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi since this horrendous activity came to light in the early Nineties;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to provide for deterrent punishment for this crime against humanity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sale of adulterated milk is already prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The Food Health Authorities of States/U. Ts. have been advised to step up surveillance measures to ensure quality of milk.

(c) Sale of adulterated milk is already a punishable offence under the provisions of P.F.A. Act, 1954.

(d) Does not arise.

Lobbying for inclusion of Hepatitis 'B' under EIP

4188. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to include

Hepatitis 'B' vaccine in the Extended Immunisation Programme (EIP);

(b) whether drug companies are lobbying with Government to include Hepatities 'B' vaccine in the EIP;

(c) the reasons being advocated by the drug companies through such lobbying;

(d) whether Government are aware that massive profits will be made by such companies;

(e) how Government propose to negotiate a reasonable price for this vaccine;

(f) whether any thought has been given to the idea of negotiating a price before including in the EIP, and

(g) if not, steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Although several recommendations for inclusion of Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme have been received by the Government, it has not been found possible to do so due to resource constraints and the need to improve the quality and coverage of the ongoing immunisation activities. Earlier, Hepatitis 'B' vaccine was not being manufactured indigenously. Recently Indian companies have also started production. Possibly, there is a perception in some quarters that as this vaccine is being produced indigenously, Government intends to include Hepatitis 'B' vaccine among the other Universal Immunisation Programme activities. As the Government has not yet taken this decision, the question of negotiating the price with individual companies does not arise.

Hepatitics 'B' under extended Immunisation Programme

4189. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the inclusion of Hepatitis 'B' vaccine in the Extended Immunisation Programme and the existing Treatments and vaccines under this programme;

(b) if so, how many children are covered under the EIP programme alongwith the cost of the EIP;

(c) what will be the additional cost of EIP if Hepatitis 'B' vaccine is included;

(d) whether Goverment studied various aspects of the Hepatitis 'B' vaccine and its impact; and

(e) if so, the thinking of the Government on this issue?:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Approximately Rs. 500 crores annually.

(d) Hepatitis B Vaccine is effective for protection against Hepatitis B infection. If given in early infancy, it will protect children from getting infected and reduce carrier rates. Persons who are already infected with Hepatitis B virus cannot however be treated by vaccination.

(e) Although the proposal for inclusion of Hepatitis B under the Universal Immunisation Programme was examined, it has not been found possibe to do so, due to resource constraints and the need to sustain and improve the implementation of the ongoing Universal Immunisation Programmes.